

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4536

FOR EUR/RPM, EUR/SOV
FROM USDEL CSCE

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE YO
SUBJ: BELGRADE CSCE MEETING: YUGOSLAV SENSITIVITY TO ACTIVITY OF
WESTERN PARLIAMENTARIANS

REF: BELGRADE 4388

1. AS DESCRIBED REFTTEL, YUGOSLAVS SEEM DETERMINED TO TAKE
QUICK ACTION AGAINST INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS WHICH ATTEMPT TO
UNDERTAKE PUBLIC PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH
BELGRADE CSCE MEETING THAT GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS TO BE DIRECTED
AGAINST ONE OF CSCE PARTICIPANTS. YUGOSLAVS HAVE
BEEN FAIRLY LENIENT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ETHNIC GROUPS
OR SPECIAL CAUSES WHO CONFINE THEMSELVES TO HOTEL CORRIDOR-
TYPE CONVERSATIONS OR TO BUTTONHOLING INDIVIDUAL DELEGATES OR
NEWSMEN, BUT THEY APPEAR TO BE DRAWING LINE AT PRESS CON-
FERENCES OR DEMONSTRATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, U.S CITIZEN REPS
OF UKRAINIAN HELSINKI COMMITTEE WERE IN BELGRADE FOR SEVERAL
WEEKS DURING WHICH THEY MADE A LARGE NUMBER OF CONTACTS
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IN AND ABOUT CONFERENCE CENTER. WHEN THEY ANNOUNCED
"PRESS CONFERENCE" FOR JUNE 28, HOWEVER, THEY WERE
QUICKLY EXPELLED.

2. ONE EXCEPTION TO THIS PATTERN WAS PRESS CONFERENCE
HELD JUNE 24 AT HOTEL METROPOL BY FIVE BRITISH AND
BELGIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO DESCRIBED THEMSELVES AS

REPRESENTING BROAD SPECTRUM OF WESTERN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS INTERESTED IN PUBLICIZING PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWRY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BRITISH AND BELGIAN EMBASSIES NEGOTIATED WITH YUGOSLAVS ABOUT PERMISSION FOR PRESS CONFERENCE. YUGOSLAVS WERE INITIALLY RELUCTANT BUT FINALLY AGREED PROVIDED PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AT AN EMBASSY. DUE TO LAST MINUTE TECHNICAL FOUL-UP, HOWEVER, PRESS CONFERENCE WAS HELD AT HOTEL, AND IT WENT OFF WITHOUT INCIDENT.

3. YUGOSLAVS SEEM SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED BY INCIDENT PERHAPS BECAUSE THEY HAVE HAD SOVIET PROTESTS AND BECAUSE THEY FEAR PRECEDENT IT MAY SET FOR MAIN MEETING THIS FALL WHEN MANY MORE PARLIAMENTARIANS MAY WISH TO COME TO BELGRADE. TANJUG PRESS AGENCY HAS CARRIED SEVERAL DENIALS THAT GOVERNMENT CONCURRED IN HOLDING OF PRESS CONFERENCE DESIGNED TO EMBARRASS SOVIET UNION. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT OF STATEMENT CARRIED JUNE 30, ATTRIBUTED TO FEDERAL FOREIGN SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN: BEGIN TEXT:
YUGOSLAV FEDERAL FOREIGN SECRETARIAT SPOKESMAN
MIRKO KALEZIC TODAY SAID AT THE REGULAR PRESS CONFERENCE, IN ANSWERING A QUESTION OF WHAT IS THE ATTITUDE OF THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO THE RECENT ARRIVAL IN BELGRADE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF WEST EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY AND THE "METROPOL" PRESS CONFERENCE MENTIONED IN THE FOREIGN
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PRESS, THAT "THIS GROUP OF EMINENT PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM A NUMBER OF WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WAS ON A PRIVATE VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA. WE WERE INFORMED THROUGH THE PRESS THAT THEY HAD A MEETING WITH JOURNALISTS IN THE 'METROPOL' HOTEL. THE PARLIAMENTARIANS DID NOT ASK FOR A PERMIT FROM YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES FOR THIS MEETING, WHICH IS OTHERWISE A USUAL PROCEDURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH YUGOSLAV POSITIVE REGULATIONS. IT IS CLEAR THAT YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES HAD NO CONNECTION WITH THIS MEETING IN 'METROPOL' AND THAT THEY, HAVING IN VIEW THE PRIVATE CHARACTER OF THE VISIT OF THIS GROUP IN YUGOSLAVIA, (WORD INDISTINCT) HAVE REFUSED TO GIVE PERMISSION FOR THIS MEETING".

TO A QUESTION OF WHAT IS YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT'S STAND IN RELATIONS TO THE GROUP OF PARLIAMENTARIANS' INDICATION THAT IN OCTOBER EVEN MORE WEST EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS WILL COME TO BELGRADE WITH THE SAME GOAL, KALEZIC SAID THAT YUGOSLAVIA WILL CONSISTENTLY OBSERVE ITS OBLIGATIONS WHICH ARE CLEARLY DEFINED IN THE FINAL HELSINKI CONFERENCE ACT, THAT IS, TO PROVIDE, AS THE HOST COUNTRY, NORMAL CONDITIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE BELGRADE MEETING AT WHICH REPRESENTATIVES

OF 35 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA PARTICIPATE ON THE BASIS OF SOVEREIGN EQUALITY. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SUCH CONDITIONS, IT IS THE DUTY OF THE HOST COUNTRY TO ELIMINATE THOSE ACTIVITIES OF INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS COMING UNOFFICIALLY AIMED TOWARDS HINDERING NORMAL CONDITIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE MEETING. WE HOPE THAT ALL THE PARTICIPANT COUNTRIES AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS, PARTICULARLY PARLIAMENT REPRESENTATIVES, WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THIS STAND, SO THAT THE WORK OF THE BELGRADE MEETING CAN BE CONDUCTED UNDER FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS, KALEZIC SAID. END TEXT.

4. COMMENT: STATEMENT DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN PARLIAMENTARIANS
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MENTARIANS WHO ARE ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS, FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE WHO MIGHT BE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL DELEGATIONS, AND THOSE WHO HAVE NO OFFICIAL STATUS IN YUGOSLAVIA. IT DEMONSTRATES, HOWEVER, SENSITIVITY YUGOSLAVS HAVE TOWARD PUBLIC ACTIVITY EVEN OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS DURING PERIOD OF BELGRADE MEETINGS. IF EXPERIENCE WITH BRITISH AND BELGIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP IS GUIDE, YUGOSLAVS MAY BE EXPECTED TO CLOSE AN EYE IF PARLIAMENTARIANS ARE PREPARED TO BE DISCREET. ASSERTION THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAS "DUTY TO ELIMINATE THOSE ACTIVITIES OF INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS COMING UNOFFICIALLY AIMED TOWARDS HINDERING NORMAL CONDITIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE MEETING", SUGGESTS, HOWEVER, THAT ACTIVITIES OF PARLIAMENTARIANS, NOT TO MENTION PRIVATE ADVOCATES, WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED THROUGHOUT CSCE MEETINGS.
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